

New Narcotics Control Program To Go Into Operation Oct. 1st

A new narcotics control program he described as "California's best hope for coping with the narcotics menace" will begin operation in the state on Oct. 1, Gov. Edmund G. Brown announced this week.

He said the State's first "narcotics - treatment" control unit will go into action in the Los Angeles area on that date. A special training program for unit personnel began Tuesday.

Robert E. Seabridge, former regional supervisor of the division of adult paroles, has been named to head the unit, the Governor said. Richard A. McGee, director of corrections for California, made the assignment.

The Governor first called for the new program of diagnostic testing with naline and psychiatric aid for addicts released on probation in his inaugural address.

IT WAS APPROVED in legislation authored by State Senator J. William Beard (D), Imperial County, and \$175,000 was appropriated to finance a nine months "pilot program" in the Los Angeles area.

"I regard this program as California's best new hope for coping with the narcotics menace," Governor Brown said. "In cooperation with the Attorney General's program for encouraging stepped up local use of naline testing of addicts, we may very well be on our way to an effective method of substantially reducing the narcotics problem in California."

The basic mission of the pilot experimental unit is to prevent the readmission of some 400 former narcotics addicts released on parole from State prisons by intensive supervision, counseling, frequent naline testing, and reconfine-ment where necessary.

"But the implications are broader if the pilot program proves effective," McGee told the Governor.

HE SAID all known heroin addicts could be placed under such close supervision that it

would be impossible for them to revert to the use of narcotics to any substantial extent."

Research personnel have been assigned to the unit to measure its effectiveness scientifically.

Under the present plan two field groups will be established, each supervising 200 former addicts. Parole agents will have a caseload of 30 compared with the usual 75 or so.

McGee said personnel for group one, to operate in East Los Angeles, has been selected, a medical doctor secured to give the naline and other medical tests, and quarters located for the testing in the heart of a high narcotics area.

The 200 parolees with the most serious addiction problem in the group's boundaries have been identified and assigned to the Parole Agents.

THE SECOND field unit is scheduled to begin operations Feb. 1, 1960.

The close supervision, counseling, liaison with other law enforcement agencies, and frequent medical testing is expected to prove a strong deterrent to the reuse of narcotics.

If narcotics use is begun, it will be detected quickly and the parolee immediately confined to the unit's treatment center at the California Institution for Men at Chino before

he can develop a big narcotic habit or commit further crimes.

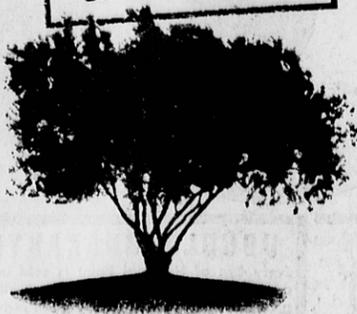
AFTER MEDICAL and psychological treatment for up to 90 days, the parolee would, it is expected, in most cases be returned to the community on an "out-patient" basis under strict supervision. If this treatment did not prove adequate, he would be returned to

prison. The 160-hour intensive training course for group one, treatment center, and administrative personnel will range from study of the history of opiates to actual field work with Los Angeles police and sheriff's officers.

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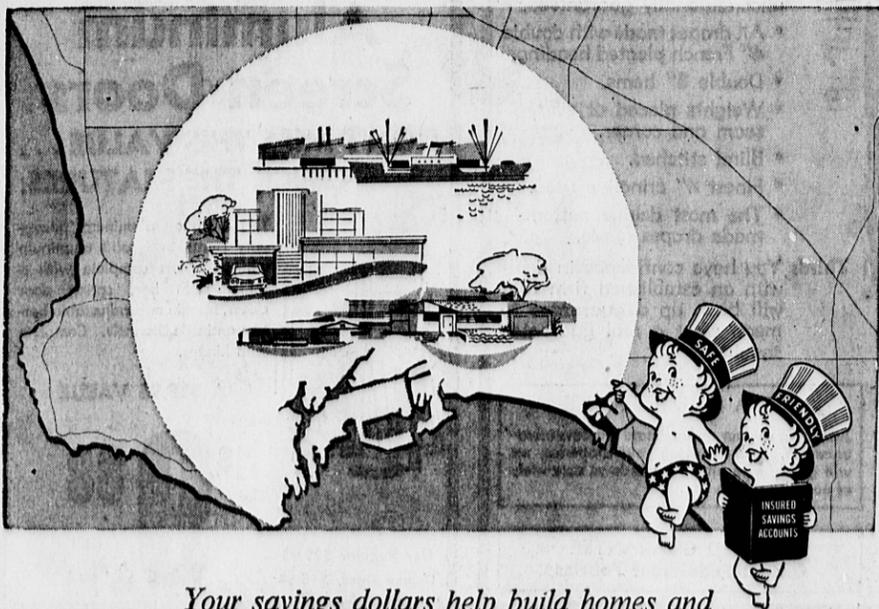
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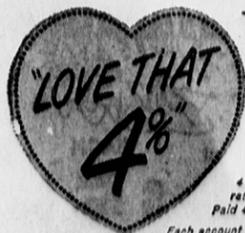


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